



CONTENTS



NEWS

COLLEGE CAREER
NETWORK

SUB IMPROV SHOW

OPINIONS

LADY GAGA: JUST A
GIMMICK

TATTOOS NOT SO
TABOO

FEATURES

POETRY BOX

NETFLIX GUIDE

SPORTS

TRACK BIG MEET
SUCCESS

SOFTBALL PREVIEW

THE BACK PAGE

DATING ADVICE

WOULD YOU RATHER?



Higher Learning Commission Performs College Evaluation

By F. H. Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Last week, St. Joseph College was visited by the Higher Learning Commission of North Central Association. Every ten years the college is visited by the Commission to be evaluated for re-accreditation. "Anyone can open a college, but if they aren't doing anything college-worthy it's not worth it," says Student Association Vice-President James Bertucci. Over the past Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday, the Higher Learning Commission held many meetings with faculty and administration and academic cabinet members. Meetings took place with student representatives as well as Student Association members to discuss some of the issues concerning students.

Luncheons and meal gatherings with the committee members and members of faculty were held to talk about the academic goals of each department. Some of topics included in these discussions regarded the familiarity of the college's mission statement among staff and students, and how they understand its effect on the college. Other issues discussed were the college's retention rate and what the college is doing to ensure that students spend four years at Saint Joseph. Another topic discussed was the Catholic identity of the college and how much of student life



Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.

The Higher Learning Commission visited many parts of campus and talked to faculty, students, and administration. The commission visited Monday through Wednesday, February 13, 14, 15. A panel for students was held in the Courtney Auditorium in the Core Education Center.

and academics is influenced by the Catholic background. Some concerns were discussed such as the internet and dorm conditions, student activities and how many students attend these activities. One of the main topics brought up regarded whether or not students have a way for their concerns to be expressed outside of Student Association. This brings about the topic of the forum that the HLC held for students to try and voice their opinions and concerns. It

was held on Monday February 13, at 3:45 p.m., and only six students attended the forum. However, the students who attended expressed their concerns and were very much involved with the forum. Vice-president James Bertucci was involved with many of the gatherings and discussions and had this to say. "The people who came to campus went right down to business. After they got their business done, they became personable and talked more

about their background, so they proposed challenges to people they interviewed and conversed with. Overall, every committee went over well. I do think we'll be re-accredited based on what I saw." Mr. Bertucci also added, "I recommend everyone to take a look at the mission statement. It's important that students and staff understand what our college's mission is all about so they can better emulate it in their involvement on campus."

MAC group provides positive alternative to "Thirsty Thursday"

By Erin Hill
Staff Writer

When thinking of Thursdays, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Some people think of "Thirsty Thursday" and others just think of another boring night they have to sit through before the weekend comes. Either way you think of your Thursday, there is a new way to spend your night. The group Make A Choice (MAC) is giving the student body an alternative to spending Thursday nights drinking or stuck in the evil clutches of boredom by providing a free alternative that includes food, games, and friends. The goal of MAC is to provide alternatives to drinking and doing drugs on campus. The main emphasis of the group is to get together and have fun in positive ways. MAC's president junior Biology/Chemistry major Roger Michels says, "MAC had kind

of faded away for a while, and we thought that having an event for "Thirsty Thursday" would be a great way to exhibit what we are trying to do." He also states that they are trying to boost their numbers and get their name out so people know who they are and the positive things they are trying to do for our campus.

Starting on Thursday March 1, 2012, the party will begin in the basement of Merlini Hall once a month. The event runs from 7-9 and will have pizza, games, enjoyment, and a friendly atmosphere. MAC wants the student body to think before they choose the events they wish to participate in during the night and therefore make wise choices. The club hopes that events like this will draw in students from across campus and make the choice of what to do with Thursday night a little bit easier.



Graphic by Jessica Ruschke

The MAC group will be hosting monthly events on Thursdays filled with pizza, games, and fun with friends.

Career Center offers new job-search site

Students, alumni, employers connect on College Central Network

By Christina Heath
Staff Writer

All college students face the fear and questions of what happens after graduation and we are thrown out into the real world. What will I do next? What do I really want to do with my life? Where should I begin looking for a job and how? Is my resume professional enough? Where can I find help answering all these questions that were never talked about in classes?

To begin answering these questions and allay these fears, Saint Joseph's Career Center is now collaborating with the website collegecentral.com. Collegecentral.com offers its various services, help guides, and announcements available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Saint Joe's domain is accessible through www.collegecentral.com/saintjoe.

Once on the home page, icons for student, alumni, and employers can be clicked to

find out more information about services the site provides and SJC's current announcements. Hyperlinks are also available where you can either log in, register, or get help understanding the site.

Employers who use this site are allowed to search resumes, view portfolios, post jobs that are targeted to particular schools, students, or alumni, and even offer someone an interview or job through the site. A person's resume and portfolio can only be viewed by an employer if that person authorizes it.

To utilize the site's services as a student or alumni, register by creating an access ID and password. After entering an ID, password, and clicking 'Continue Registration'; a new page comes up for students to enter personal information and job interests for personal profiles. Once that is completed, you are directed to your own personal home page.

Your home page offers you the ability to search for internships

or jobs either posted by your school or in the national job market. It also allows you to create or manage a resume which is reviewed and approved so that it may be sent to employers or submitted online to jobs. Other services offered include creating a career portfolio, tips on how to get your resume noticed, articles on numerous subjects and interests, and finding job mentors. The site also keeps a history of all your personal searches so you may review them later.

If what happens to your account after graduation worries you, no fear! The site also makes available the ability to change your status from student to alumni so that you can continue using the network.

Next time you are thinking about what you are going to do after graduation, just remember that www.collegecentral.com/saintjoe is always available to help you begin planning out the rest of your life.

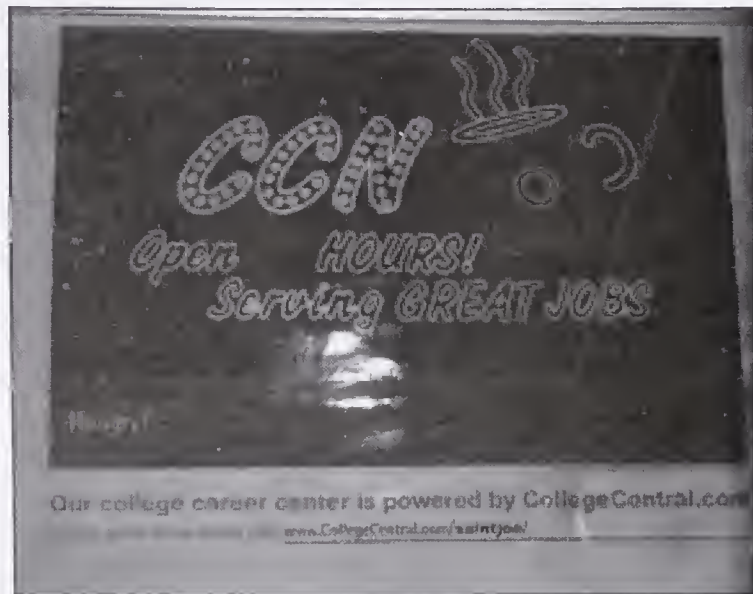



Photo courtesy of Jessica Ruschke


In order to promote the new website, Career development placed many flyers across campus. Students are encouraged to investigate the website.



College Career Network

**Resumes,
Job Searching,
Portfolios**

Check them off
your list!



SUB invites improv group for Sunday performance

By Jessica Ruschke
News Editor

Sunday, February 19 the Student Union Board invited the Smarty Pants Theater Company to campus. Students and Office of Admissions admitted student overnight guests gathered in the Halleck Ballroom to watch the show. The event was well-attended.

The Smarty Pants Theater Company is a nationally touring improvisation group based in Chicago. The company has performed improv since 2001. According to the group's Facebook page, they also do workshops, classes, and comedy shows. The group works with improvisational short forms, including many different games. Sophomore English Creative Writing major Rande Porteus said, "The whole cast seemed very genuine. You could tell they worked on the fly, and it was hilarious."

During their show, the company relied heavily on student involvement. They asked the audience for suggestions to start the scene, and they even called students up on stage at different times to help with the short scenes. During one game the two audience members shouted out words to finish the performer's sentence. In another game two audience members manipulated the arm, facial, and leg movements of the two participating improv group members. Rande Porteus said, "The audience involvement was really nice. It was a really interactive show."



Photos courtesy of Jessica Ruschke

(Top) The Smarty Pants Theater Company poses for a photo after the performance. A large number of students and Admissions admitted student guests attended the event.

(Bottom) SUB members work hard to put on these events, but they enjoy seeing students enjoy themselves. To promote the event, many SUB members wore bright yellow "Event Today" shirts.



Campus Improv group holds weekly show

By Rachel King
Staff Writer

On Friday February 17, 2012 the Improv group Project Under Construction did a short thirty minute show. This show was part of the club's newest activity that consists in short weekly performances for the enjoyment of the school either Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. The times of the performances vary from week to week to allow as many students as possible to have a chance to come see the show. The group performs in the Halleck Center in the South Halleck lounge. The group's performance attracted the largest crowd yet. They ran out of chairs, so some people had to sit in the couches.

The group performed several different games and skits, including a game in which two

groups of two interact with one another. In the scene, one pair must speak in unison, and each member of the other pair must speak one word at a time and alternate. Another game involved one person guessing what three other players were portraying in the scene. They also played freeze tag where mini scenes are played out until someone shouts "freeze." Kirstin Arkwright a Freshman Biology major said, "My favorite part of the improv show was when they would freeze."

They even had the crowd participate and the crowd enjoyed it's part. Freshman Biology major said, Erin Hill a Freshman Biology major said "There was never a dull moment in the show. With every game they played it got funnier and funnier to watch."

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2/25 Choir Concert

3/2 - 11 Spring Break

3/11 Daylight Savings
Time Begins

No, You Were Not Born This Way

By **Randee Portteus**
Guest Writer

Nevermind, instead of mooning over you, Adele will win four Grammy Awards in the U.S., make millions, and forget your ass. And in addition, she will beat out one of the most popular “musicians” in recent years for Album of the Year, Best Pop Vocal Album, and Best Pop Solo Performance. Lady Gaga, you may have noticed if you watched the Grammy’s, didn’t win a single award that night. Not only that, she only had three nominations and she was beaten by Adele in all three categories.

Now, I know Lady Gaga has a huge fan base, I know she does a lot of good work raising awareness about equal rights for people of every sexual orientation, and I know that her music is catchy. But I maintain that I do not like her. When she first came out, I was thrilled. “Just Dance” was something I sang with my choir friends during breaks and I specifically remember nearly blowing out the speakers in my truck listening to “Bad Romance.” And if I get together with specific friends, there’s no doubt those songs will end up playing at some point in the night.

I feel, though, that at some point between the Catholic, New York born and raised former stripper, Stefani Germanotta, rising to fame as Lady Gaga in

2008 and now, something got lost. Her story is a rather inspiring one: she dropped out of college at nineteen to pursue her musical career. She performed in bars and underground, doing everything she could just to make it. From there, though, the story gets a little sketchy.

Instead of just performing, she started performing in as few clothes as possible, doing drugs, and experimenting with music. Now, I know I sound about eighty years old here. And you might bring up bands like, say, The Beatles, who were obviously into drugs (hello, it was the seventies), or Elvis Presley, who pushed the envelope with his risqué dance moves and music. But here’s the difference between them and Lady Gaga: they are musicians, and Lady Gaga is a gimmick.

People would argue with me, and don’t get me wrong, she has a beautiful voice. But it’s hard to hear over the techno-crap-ass music and autotune in her songs, and it’s hard to pay attention when she’s wearing a dress made of raw meat and being carried into the Grammy’s in a giant egg. If you listen to her perform “Speechless,” you wouldn’t recognize her. And that’s my point. Lady Gaga isn’t a musician. She is a performer.

Which is cool. Go perform. But don’t pretend you’re a musician. Stop wasting my time, stop cluttering up my T.V.

and crappy Hollywood news shows, and stop being so damn contrived. At first, her difference was a breath of fresh air. Her attitude, her views, her music was new and different and cool. But at some point, she went over the edge. It doesn’t seem like that’s actually her anymore. I don’t think she was born this way. I’m not complaining because she’s not “normal” or she doesn’t conform to society’s standards. Anyone who knows me know that I am the furthest thing from “normal” or “cool.” I just think that she is, truly and absolutely, contrived, and I think that if you need that much pomp and circumstance to simply enter an awards show as well as to perform, well, then, you aren’t much of a musician.

Adele can stand on a stage with a piano in a simple, classy, black dress and make

people feel ten times more than Lady Gaga can with her little shows. And even if you don’t like Adele, take a handful of other artists: Michael Buble, Taylor Swift, Kings of Leon. Or, even better, look to the past, when music was nothing but pure, raw talent. Not sex, not performance, not contrivance, not giving people what they want; just talent like Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, Billy Holiday, Johnny Cash, you name it, back then, they had the real deal. But somewhere along the way, we lost what music was really about and it became just another show. And Lady Gaga? She’s just another act that will be forgotten in a heartbeat. If you don’t believe me, the Grammy’s this year show you the evidence.



Ink Me Up: Taboo Tattoos?

By **Meigan Rennels**
Opinions Editor

I have two tattoos and you would never guess it from the way I look or behave. I mean, obviously I do not have Kat VonD style tats or anything over the top. But you sure would think that I did by the way my mother reacted when she found out about them. Tattoos have a stigma of being the artwork of bikers or tramps (thus the tramp-stamp). However, I strongly believe that this stigma is fading as tattoos become a cute accessory for all sorts of people.

There are different kinds of tattoos that say different things about the people that get them. For example, girls that get a tattoo on their foot are doing it as a fashion choice. But guys that get tattoos on their arms or calves are getting them to look tough. No longer are tattoos only the art of people who spend too much time on a motorcycle.

Tattoos have a million different meanings now. People get them to remember old friends or lost family members, girls get them to match their friends, and some people get them to honour a special person in their life. There are all sorts of different reasons to get a tattoo and these reasons have slowly changed the public perception of tattoos.

Of course, the stigma of some tattoos is never going to change. There is no way to put a positive spin on a tattoo that covers your entire arm in skulls, blood or a naked woman. There

is nothing good about vulgar sayings or “F you” tattooed anywhere on your body. The choice of what tattoo to get is part of what really plays into what people think of tattoos. There is no way to be angry about someone making a judgement on a tattoo that is better fitted for a horror movie or something similar but it is harder for someone to make a negative judgement on a tattoo that is innocent or meaningful.

Also, a lot of companies will not hire someone with visible tattoos. So, obviously avoiding areas of your body that are commonly uncovered is sort of necessary to the art of tattooing. There are simple solutions to this dilemma. Do not get a huge tattoo in an obvious place. This is pretty easy for girls; hip or rib tattoos (like mine) are pretty common and easy to hide. Tattoos on the foot or wrist are also very popular for girls. It is a little more difficult for the gentleman, tattoos in places that are easy to hide, are not quite as masculine as the boys want them to be. But it is also easier for men to hide tattoos in business attire. The position of a tattoo is very important to the acceptance of tattoos by society.

Another reason the stigma is changing is because more and more people are getting tattoos. Nearly everyone has, is getting, or wants a tattoo nowadays; especially high school and college students. Tattoos are the new cool

thing to do. Everyone wants one and more people are getting them now than ever. The fact that so many people have them is changing the way everyone else looks at tattoos. It is hard to judge every single person that has a tattoo when so many people have them. People must learn to accept the presence of tattoos because they are so common.

Overall, the way tattoos are

viewed by society has changed drastically. People are more accepting of tattoos because the number of people that have them, the nature of the tattoo, and the more private positioning of the tattoos. Tattoos are much more socially acceptable than they ever have been before and the stigma of tattoos being trashy is definitely changing.

Have your voice be heard!

Are there people or groups on campus that you think deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the campus community?

Are their concerns in *the Observer* that need to be addressed?

Do you have any concerns with policies on campus?

Are there issues you think need to be discussed?

Tell us about it! The Student Forum is your way to speak out and have your voice be heard. Please send your letters to Meigan Rennels at mrq7698@saintjoe.edu attached as a Word document.

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

Dark Souls: The Hardest Game Ever?

By Adam Ruggles
Features Writer

In late 2009, From Software, a Japanese video game developer, released a dark medieval fantasy, role-playing game (RPG) called Demon’s Souls. In such RPGs, players choose a class (e.g., a knight, sorcerer, thief, etc.) and then increasingly upgrade their attributes and gear to be

a dark, complex, difficult, and rewarding experience. Moreover, the various encounters players will have along their completely overshadow the lack of a fully formed and developed plot, which is what the game probably intended anyway. In Dark Souls, it is not about the end goal, but rather about the experiences leading to that end.

It is impossible to adequately

in one’s demise, such as attack patterns, special moves, etc.

In my opinion, what makes Dark Souls so uniquely difficult is the strain it puts on its player. Players are constantly abused physically, mentally, and emotionally as the game forces them to improve or risk never progressing in the game. Dark Souls does not hold its player’s hand by any means. There is very

to their bloodstain through the very enemies that killed them initially. To make matters worse, if players die on their way to recover their souls, those souls are lost permanently. As a result, the decision to retreat to the last bonfire and level up one’s attributes or push forward hoping to encounter another bonfire are decision with potentially the gravest of consequences.

mastering the mechanics of its near flawless combat system. Dark Souls thrusts its players into a desolate, decaying, and foreboding world full of endless creatures and demons with only one goal: to stop the player from succeeding. The creatures one faces range from skeletons to gargoyles, and iron giants to seven-headed hydras, as well as everything in between. However,



Both Dark Souls and Demon Souls are games renowned for their difficulty. Even with the intense struggles a player may face, the games receive generally positive reviews. IGN gave it a 9.0 or “Amazing” saying, “Demon’s Souls is pure game, a complete and darkly fascinating vision that makes no concessions to the modern conception of how games should be. Instead, it was an exploration of how games could be; how bleak, how twisted, how focused and – most famously – how challenging.”

able to tackle the world’s most formidable enemies. This particular release was met with near universal praise from critics and garnered several awards, including multiple Game of the Year and Best RPG denotations. Following the critical and commercial success of Demon’s Souls, From Software announced that a spiritual successor to Demon’s Souls was in development and in October of 2011, Dark Souls was released and was met with even more critical acclaim, despite a very minimalistic plot.

Since then, I had heard a lot about Dark Souls on the various gaming websites I frequent as the game kept ending up on everyone’s lists of the top games released that year. Well, I finally got around to purchasing Dark Souls a few weeks ago and was immediately greeted with

discuss Dark Souls without mentioning the game’s unforgiving difficulty. This game is often considered one of the hardest games ever made and it more than deserves that title. One should expect nothing less as the game’s whose case is disdainfully adorned with the phrase “Prepare to Die.” In Dark Souls, players will die...a lot. However, Dark Souls has an ability seldom found in other games to perfectly balance extreme difficulty and fairness. When a player dies in Dark Souls, it was not because of a flaw in the game or some event outside of the player’s control, it was the player’s inability to perform in that particular instance, plain and simple. Moreover, death is not always a bad thing in Dark Souls because with each attempt more information is gained about the particular enemies that are aided

little tutorial or instructions in game and manual and the game very much embraces the trial and error mentality. Moreover, the game operates on the constant principle of wielding a double edged sword, meaning there is hardly ever a decision that is wholly good and without any drawbacks. For example, upon dying, players leave a bloodstain on the ground where they died, which contains the total number of “souls” (i.e., a supernatural currency used to upgrade attributes, and buy weapons or armor, among other things) they have possession of at that particular time. In order to recover their lost souls, players must reach their bloodstain from the last bonfire (i.e., safe zone) that they visited. However, since mostly all of the enemies respawn upon death or resting at a bonfire, players must fight their way back

To account for this high difficulty, the developers have devised excellent multiplayer integration. Unlike most games, Dark Souls multiplayer aspect entails writing messages on the environment that give advice to fellow travelers. The messages are sent across worlds to others who happen to playing Dark Souls and can prove to be truly useful as the messages often warn of traps, ambushes, or offer encouraging words which, in this game, are hard to come by. Additionally, players can also summon other online players to help aid them in their journey at the risk of being invaded by hostile characters looking to steal your souls (another example of the double-edged sword mentality that pervades all aspects of Dark Souls).

As mentioned above, the game’s effect on its players extends far beyond just

the landscapes are stunningly picturesque and supply an almost paradoxical backdrop to the majority of the grisly action that unfolds in dingy and bloodstained dungeons and castles. The sound is also realistic and appropriate for the harsh kingdom of Lordran. Dark Souls go to even greater lengths to be more disturbing and unsettling as the game denies its players the ability to pause the game. As a result, players are really never safe from the evil that lurks around every corner in Dark Souls. In no other game has the saying “only the strongest will survive” applied more. However, through patience, practice, and pure will, players brave enough to enter Lordran will find an experience unlike any other as with the high level of difficulty assures that each victory, small and large, is one of utter reward and elation.

RETURN OF THE POETRY BOX

By Kristina Hemmerling
Features Writer

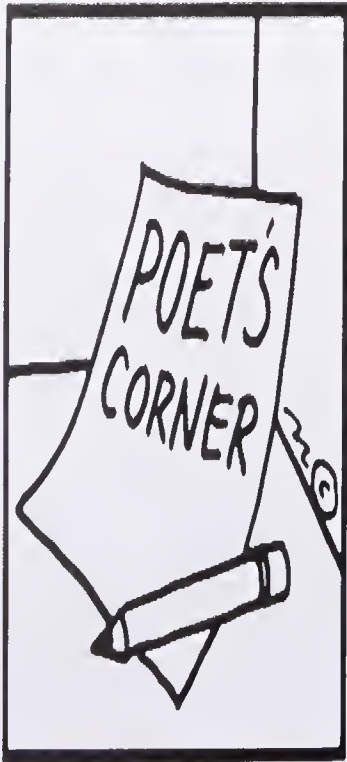
“Dammit”

“Hey man, can we turn the music down?”
I ask some dude I’ve never seen,
He’s sitting by the speakers
Bobbing his head to the beat.
He ignores me.
Dammit.

I have the worst headache ever from these people.
I hate my roommate’s friends.
This music is too loud.
Some skank I’ve never seen walks up to me,
“Hey sugar, where’s your bathroom?”
At least she knows I own the place.
I point and she stumbles away
The thin strap of her shirt

Falling off her shoulder.
I shake my head,
“I need more beer.”
My kitchen is crowded with people I don’t know,
And my fridge is empty.
Dammit.

Too bad I’m too drunk to drive and get more.
“Hey Alan, where’s the booze?”
My best friend asks.
My roommate.
My best friend?
He uses me for beers and a place to sleep,
Nothing more.
“I don’t know, man.”
I need a seat, but there’s no room on my couch,
Between the overly drunk dudes And pretending-to-be-drunk chicks.
The skank finally leaves my bathroom.



The sink is still running,
Vomit is in the tub,
And on the floor,
And part of the toilet.
Dammit.

I get enough of this shit at work
No way I’m mopping it up here.
David can do that after all his “homies” leave.
When I shut the door I see some drunkards
In the hall
Lighting up a joint.
Not in my house.
“You can do that somewhere else.”
So I kick them out.
Everyone else stares.
“What? I’m not dealing with that shit.”
But I don’t even know if they heard me over the pulsing bass.
I go and unlock my room
And sit on my bed.

Damn it all!

“What should I do?”
I don’t need to deal with all of David’s shit anymore
I hate his parties
Hate his friends
I don’t even like him anymore.
Maybe I’ll kick him out in the morning
Maybe I’ll just leave
Maybe I’ll do nothing,
Like usual.

If you have any poetry you would like to submit to the Observer, send it to Brandon Bennett (bbq7451@saintjoe.edu) or Corey Dowds (green_fire4@hotmail.com).

The Name Of The Wind

By Brandon Bennet
Features Editor

Fantasy, especially epic fantasy, has always been my preferred genre. Recently, I got my hands on a copy of *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss, book one in *The Kingkiller Chronicle*, published in 2007 by DAW books, and I was blown away by the phenomenal storytelling and writing style of this new author.

The book begins with an innkeeper named Kote, who lives in the small, nondescript town of Newarre. The roads are becoming more dangerous in recent times, meaning that less travelers have been coming to the inn. One day, a man known as the Chronicler, a famous historian noted for his ability to root out stories, arrives.

With some persuasion, Chronicler convinces Kote to tell his story. As it turns out, Kote is actually the hero Kvothe, whose name is known throughout the land. Though he is reluctant at first, Kvothe does desire to set down the true events of his life, and he begins his story for his assistant, Bast, and Chronicler. Kvothe says that the story will take three days, setting up the framework for the trilogy.

At this point, the story transitions from third person to first person. The book then uses this pattern throughout the rest of the story. Kvothe tells his story for a section; when he pauses, it switches back to the present time in third person. This system of telling past events and present events in different points of view really allows you to delve into the life of the hero.

Kvothe begins his story with a recounting of his childhood. His parents were members of the Edema Ruh, a traveling troupe of



"Rothfuss is working from a bottomless well of raw talent. You don't have to get much more than half a dozen pages in before acknowledging that you're looking at a natural born writer. His ease with language and unpretentious, flowing prose are a joy to behold. Such craft makes this lengthy novel fly by. Indeed, his writing is so good that unattentive readers may overlook a few glaring plot flaws, as well as the fact that at the end, quite literally nothing is resolved. "With vivid characterizations, some artfully timed suspense, ample wit, and a handsomely rendered world for its stage, The Name of the Wind is good enough for me to recommend despite reservations. You will find a story that is, on balance, solid entertainment, by a writer who is quite likely to become a major name in the field once he's smoothed over his rough edges." - (http://www.sfreviews.net/name_of_the_wind.html)

performers widely discriminated against in most places. Kvothe is an extremely talented musician with the lute and with his voice and is able to learn mostly anything with lightning speed. During their travels, they pick up an arcanist named Abenthy for a short time, who begins teaching Kvothe about the ways of sympathy, a system of magic heavily rooted in physics. Abenthy also tells Kvothe of the older, truer form of magic called naming. Kvothe spends a good chunk of time throughout the story trying to uncover the name of the wind (hence the name of the book).

At the same time, Kvothe's father, Arliden, is trying to compose a new song about the Chandrian, a mythical group of beings who are typically held responsible for evil and corruption. They are thought

to be mostly children's stories. Soon after Abenthy has left the troupe, Kvothe goes off in the woods and returns to find everyone at the camp dead. Kvothe sees the Chandrian, who came to kill everyone at the camp due to Arliden's curiosity.

Kvothe, now orphaned and alone in the world, spends three years in the city of Tarbean living as a street urchin. Eventually, he finds a way to travel to the University, the legendary school that teaches students about sympathy. Along the way, Kvothe meets Denna, a young woman who will pop up throughout the story.

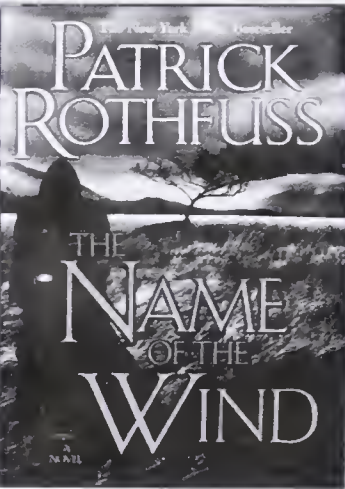
At the University, Kvothe manages to gain acceptance. Due to his poverty, he must rely on his many talents to stay at the University, as it requires increasing tuition for every term. Kvothe

immediately creates a feud with a master teacher and a powerful noble's son, but he manages to establish a reputation as an extremely fast study, gaining both jealousy and admiration from his classmates.

Also, while at the University, Kvothe pursues his true goal: learning about the Chandrian. He is constantly met with frustration, as nearly everyone believes them to be a myth. He remains determined in his quest, though, and continues to grow into the legendary hero that he will eventually become.

Throughout the story, Rothfuss shows himself to be a genius of an author. *The Name of the Wind* is a commentary on traditional fantasy, coming-of-age stories, fairy tales, and romances, while at the same time being a story rooted

in those concepts. Kvothe's tale is unique and interesting, and the transition between past and present events weaves a solid, compelling story.



The Original U.S. Cover of *The Name of the Wind*.

Netflix Guide

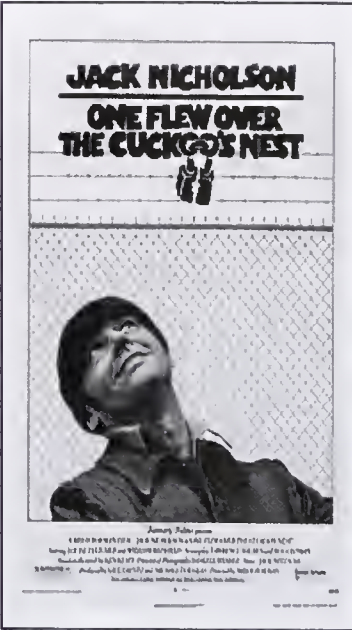
By Corey Dowds
Features Editor

Have you ever been on Netflix for hours without watching a movie? This is a common thing that my friends and I experience on a regular basis (yes, oftentimes we have nothing better to do than wander aimlessly in a virtual movie store). Well ladies and gentlemen, I am here to help you avoid that problem. Let me be your guide, I'll show you the ropes including the good, the bad, and the ugly (which isn't on Netflix, what a shame!).

The Good

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest: Jack Nicholson plays a man who has been imprisoned for statutory rape of a 15 year old. He has been transferred from a penitentiary to a mental institution despite showing no signs of mental illness. The story is full of twists and turns, and unlikely heroes and villains in disguise amongst the regular people. Jack Nicholson's character Randie McMurphy quickly becomes

the leader among the inmates at the mental institution. This was only the second film to win all five major awards at the Academy Awards (Best Actor, Best Actress in a lead role, Director, Screenplay and Best Film). If there is one movie on Netflix that you must watch, it should be *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.



Ranked at #10 on IMDB.com's top 250, with an 8.8/10 score, as voted by the sites users.

No Strings Attached: Before you start to laugh, I actually did enjoy this movie. While it is true that I hung my head when a couple of girls implored me to watch it, I was actually pleasantly surprised. While not on the same level as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher both play convincing roles, even if there characters are a bit unrealistic. They have a certain chemistry and humor to their situation that makes the tone lighthearted and yet the issue they deal with serious. *No Strings Attached* is a movie where two people try to have relations without making any commitments to each other, in terms of exclusiveness. Watch these two love birds struggle to resist or give into cupids assault on their hearts.

Hey Arnold: It's a classic! For those of you who lived in a cave for the entirety of your childhood, "*Hey Arnold*" is a show about Arnold, a 9 year old boy who has a football shaped head. Through his daily adventures with friends and family, Arnolds life is tragic, heartfelt, but

most of all funny. If you didn't catch "*Hey Arnold*" the first time around, than it's a show that can definitely pass the time with a good yuck.

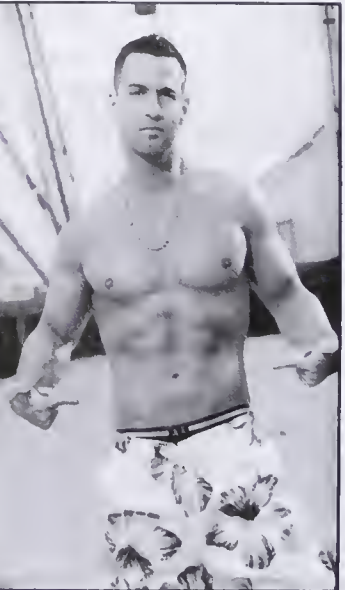
The Bad

The Situation's Workout Plan: My friends and I started to watch this for fun, thinking it could provide us with a laugh or two. What we saw astonished us. Mike "*The Situation*" one of the celebrities from the popular television show "*Jersey Shore*" stumbling through a workout video. The only interesting part about the show is we got to see his friend "*The Unit*" who we had not seen before! Other than that, it was Mike saying, "Ya know what I'm sayin'" for the 10 minutes that we watched it.

The Ugly

All Children's movies besides "*Toy Story 3*" and "*Tangled*." Almost everything in the "*Sci Fi*" genre. The genres in how Netflix works: Sometimes Netflix gets a little crazy. For example, who

would ever be searching for "Strong woman lead role in a French film" or "Ocean films for boys age 11-12"? Well, apparently Netflix and its creators believe those to be popular topics. If you see these on your Netflix, just try to repress the memory all together. I find that is the easiest way to cope.



You don't have to listen to *The Situation's* workout video to look like him. Just eat salad and so some crunches. Trust me, you don't want to watch.

BIG MEET; BIG SUCCESS FOR SJC TRACK & FIELD

By J.J. Miller
Staff Writer

Two days, one 300 meter track, and over 1,800 athletes.

That was the scene at Grand Valley State University two weeks ago when the Pumas Track & Field team traveled north for the GVSU Big Meet. The meet attracts teams from across the nation, from both NCAA Division I and II. The two day event, a Friday invitational and an open Saturday meet, showed more impressive marks for the Pumas as they build towards conference.

For the men, Jeremiah Wright and Mike Fauser started the weekend off on high points for the Pumas. Wright hit a time of 8.46 in the finals of the 60 meter hurdles, while Fauser hit 1:54.81 in the 800 meter run. Kaleb Thompson and Anthony Bradley both hit impressive marks of 16.73 and 15.68 meters, respectively, in the shot put. In the open portion of the meet, Richard Kaht hit a time of 15:14.26 in the 5,000 meter run, good for 50th out of the 178 runners. Wright placed 15th out of over 100 runners in the 400 meter dash with a mark of 50.2.

Rocco Mazzanti ran a time of 9:00.00 in the 3,000 meter run, good for 21st. The 4x400 meter relay team of Wright, Fauser, Matt



Brian Witt and Corey Dows pose for the camera. (Photo taken by C.P.P.S. Father Tim McFarland)

Rosado, and Cole Galloway finished 14th with a time of 3:26.71.

Joe Took highlighted the field events on Saturday, claiming 1st in the triple jump and 10th in the long jump, with marks of 14.06 and 6.19 meters in the events. Thompson came back for the open section of the shot put, improving his mark to 17.38 meters, good for 2nd on the day. For the women, freshman Sam Nirva highlighted the Friday Invite with a strong showing in her first heptathlon, an event in which the participants compete in five separate events for points, which are totaled for a final score.

Nirva totaled 2,782 points and took 8th in the event. In the

Saturday open, Trisha Hanlon had a strong showing in the mile run with a time of 5:28.86. Andie Strang claimed 18th in the 3,000 meter run, coming across the line in a time of 11:00.17. Alicia Allen claimed 9th in the triple jump with her mark of 10.59 meters, just ahead of Tiffany McCoy, who took 10th with her own mark of 10.38 meters. Mercedes Montgomery hit a mark of 11.02 in the shot put, giving her 25th, while teammate A.J. Kephshire took 27th with her mark of 10.79 meters.

The Pumas will travel further north, to Wisconsin-Parkside, for the GLVC Conference Track Meet on February 24th and 25th.

Correction

During the past few issues, the sports section has run several girls basketball articles taken from the athletic website that had incorrect credit. Stephanie Wiethrop was the actual author of several stories credited to Ken Badylak. We are very sorry that this error occurred and will be more careful in the future to check the authors of website pieces. We would like to apologize to Stephanie and our readers, and thank Stephanie for pointing out the error in a professional manner. We will strive to continue the quality our readers expect from The Observer, and again, apologize for our mistake.



SJC Sweeps in Sunday Series

By Ken Badylak
Sports Information Director

Ouachita Baptist University scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning on Sunday afternoon in a 5-3 victory over the Saint Joseph's College baseball team. SJC fell 6-3 in the late inning of the series finale to conclude the trip.

The Tigers (4-6) got on the board first in the bottom of the third inning after Brock Green's sacrifice fly. SJC (0-3) responded in the top of the fourth as Eric Mason (Tinley Park, IL, Victor J. Andrew) led off the frame with a ringing double into centerfield. Kolin Conner (Indianapolis, Ind., Lincoln Trail) then tied the game with an RBI single. Conner later scored on Joe Sturino (Waterford, Wis., Warerford Union) two-out RBI single.

OBU played small ball in the bottom half of the fourth, crossing the plate four times on four hits,

chasing the Pumas' starter Nathan Bunch (Renton, Wash., Brigham Young) from the contest. SJC added another tally in the sixth, starting with Mason leading off the inning with a single into center. Jake Roberts (Anderson, Ind., John A. Logan) put runners on second and third after a one-out double when Joe Pudlo's ground-out forced Mason home.

The threat would end there as Sturino would strikeout to end the inning. Davis Ward chewed-up the full seven innings for the Tigers allowing three runs on seven hits with five strikeouts. Eric Mason finished game one two for three with a double and RBI.

A pitchers dual developed in the series finale as Phil Trowbridge (Mokena, IL, Providence Catholic) pitched six shut-out innings leaving the game with a 1-0 lead. Kolin Conner accounted for the lone run, hitting a solo homerun in the top of the

fourth.

OBU tied the game on Duncan Collins' sacrifice fly in the bottom of the seventh. Nevertheless, Conner broke the tie in the top of the eighth with a two-out RBI single that scored Brandon Brian (Louisville, Ky., Trinity). Jake Roberts (Anderson, Ind., John A. Logan) reached on an error that allowed Brett Buchanan (Villa Park, Ill., Willowbrook) to score, giving the Pumas a 3-1 edge.

The Tigers put runners on second and third with one out in the bottom half of the eighth when Jace Melby tied the game with a pinch-hit two-run double off of Jake Harper (Frankfort, Ill., Lincoln Way North). OBU crossed the plate five times in the frame taking a 6-3 lead into the ninth. The Pumas did load the bases on closer Zac Treece, but Mason struck-out to end the threat and game.



Chris Chojnowski watches the game good bad. (Photo taken by C.P.P.S. Father Tim McFarland)

Upcoming Home Games

2/23/2012

W Basketball

University of Indianapolis
5:30 PM

M Basketball

University of Indianapolis
7:30 PM

3/2/2012

M + W Tennis

Indiana University East
5:00 PM

3/10/2012

Softball

University of Missouri - St. Louis (DH) 12:00 PM

3/11/2012

Softball

Maryville University (DH)
12:00 PM

3/17/2012

Softball

University of Wisconsin-Parkside (DH) 12:00 PM

3/18/2012

M + W Tennis

Aurora University 11:00 AM



Tatiana Ortiz sets up an offense. (Photo by C.P.P.S. Father Tim McFarland)

Rangers Down Pumas

By Stephanie Wiethop
Special Assistant to the
Sports Information Director

The University of Wisconsin-Parkside took control in the second half of Thursday night's game to pull out a 70-59 victory against the Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team. UWP shot 50 percent in the second half to distance them from SJC.

The Pumas (13-11, 7-9 GLVC) shot just 28 percent in the first, but managed to contain to the Rangers (20-4, 13-3 GLVC) forcing 10 turnovers. The first half featured seven ties and five lead changes as a lay-up from UWP's Cheryl Leyns gave the Rangers a six point advantage (28-22) heading into the locker rooms.

The Rangers opened-up the second half with a 25-8 run that created a 53-30 lead with nine minutes remaining. The Pumas were able to bounce back, pulling within 11 points after a 12-0 run

with baskets from Tatiana Ortiz (RSr., Chicago, Ill./St. Louis), Kayla Stout (Fr., Warsaw, IN/ Warsaw Community), Britney Cruse (Sr., Merrillville, Ind./ Merrillville), and Montrell Mills (RSr., Akron, Ohio/Wabash Valley) with just under five minutes left to go. However, the Pumas would not be able to overcome UWP's 51 percent shooting from the floor in the game.

The Pumas shot 100 percent from the free throw line making 16 of 16. Kayla Stout finished the game with 19 points, eight rebounds, and one assist. Montrell Mills added 14 points, three assists, three rebounds, and one steal while Britney Cruse contributed nine points, four rebounds, and one assist. Breanna Birmingham (Fr., Battle Creek, Mich./Harper Creek) posted seven points, four rebounds, one block, and one steal.

Baseball Ready to Come Out Swinging

By Ken Badylak

Sports Information Director

Quincy University and the University of Southern Indiana have been tabbed as favorites to win the Great Lakes Valley Conference Baseball Championship, the conference office announced today. The league's 16 head coaches selected USI to retain its GLVC East Division title after finishing the 2011 campaign with a 26-8 conference record. Quincy has been picked to win the West Division after winning the GLVC Baseball Tournament Championship last year following a runner-up finish in the West at 21-9.

A sign of depth in the conference's baseball season this year is the fact that the league coaches gave four teams in each division at least one first-place vote. USI earned nine first-place votes in the East, followed by Northern Kentucky (4), Indianapolis (2) and Saint Joseph's (1). In the West, Quincy earned nine first-place tallies, while Drury (4), Missouri S&T (2) and Rockhurst (1) split the remaining seven votes.

Despite the differential in first-place votes, Southern Indiana just edged Northern Kentucky in total points, garnering 109 markers to 108 for the Norse. NKU enters the season ranked second in the East, followed by Indianapolis (87), Saint Joseph's (76), Lewis (67), Bellarmine (59),



Angelo Burrage prepares for the incoming pitch.
Photo Courtesy of Father Timm

UW-Parkside (34) and Kentucky Wesleyan (28).

SJC lost all, but Quintin Alexander (So., Chicago, Ill./Brooks) around the starting infield. Alexander showcased impressive defensive skills last season as he looks to improve his offense prowess. Aric Marquardt (Sr., New Lenox, Ill./Lincoln-Way Central) could see action at a number of places including time at first base. Marquardt saw most of his time in the outfield last season where he batted .307 with six doubles and 17 RBIs. Eric Mason (Jr., Tinely Park, Ill./Andrew) will still be behind the plate as he finished the 2011 campaign with a .236 average.

The Pumas will have plethora of outfielders as Joe Pudlo (Sr., Grayslake, Ill./Carmel) will continue to be located in right field. Pudlo finished with a .298 batting average and 26 RBIs in

2011.

The Pumas do return a majority of their pitching staff as 86 percent of the innings pitched in 2011 are still on the roster this season. Eric Meyerchick (Sr., Lansing, Ill./T.F. South) fronts the pitching staff as he holds a career 16-10 record and a 3.79 ERA. The hard throwing right-hander pitched 70 innings last season and finished with a 4-5 record with 51 strikeouts. Chris Chojnowski (RSr., Chicago, Ill./St. Rita) begins his final season in a SJC uniform as he worked 39 innings last season with a 2.54 ERA.

Quincy earned 114 total points as the clear favorite in the West, ranking ahead of Drury (102), Missouri S&T (94) and Rockhurst (84) in the top four. William Jewell (55), Missouri-St. Louis (53), Maryville (38) and Illinois Springfield (28) round out the division.

Softball Will Rely on Pitching

By Ken Badylak

Sports Information Director

Defending GLVC Champion Lewis University and the University of Missouri – St. Louis have been chosen as the divisional favorites to take the 2012 Great Lakes Valley Conference Softball Championship, announced by the league office today. The GLVC's 16 head coaches voted Lewis to take the GLVC East Division title, after the Flyers posted a record of 36-14 a year ago and took their second-consecutive GLVC tournament championship. Missouri-St. Louis has been tabbed to take the West Division, after a 31-20 showing last season. This year marks the first season in which the 16 GLVC softball squads will play a divisional

schedule.

Three teams from the GLVC East Division earned first place votes, with top vote-getter Lewis grabbing 12 first-place nods, followed by UIndy (2) and Northern Kentucky (2). In the West Division, UMSL garnered 12 of the first-place tallies, with second-place Drury taking the other four.

Lewis edged out UIndy for the top spot in the East with 116 total points. UIndy amassed 101 total points with its two first-place votes, with Northern Kentucky's 98 total points coming third. Bellarmine (76), Southern Indiana (66), Wisconsin-Parkside (48), Saint Joseph's (39) and Kentucky Wesleyan (24) round out the East rankings in the poll.

SJC returns six every-day

players and both members of the pitching staff from the 19-26 squad of 2011. All-American Brittne Boerema (Sr., Manhattan, Ill./Lincoln-Way Central) will continue to be the mainstay behind the plate. Boerema finished last season with a plethora of post-season honors as she held a .296 batting average with five homeruns and 26 RBIs. Amy Varner (Sr., Mount Prospect, Ill./Prospect) returns a team-best .345 batting average and 12 doubles to the line-up as she solidifies the middle infield. Both Boerema and Varner held a fielding percentage over .950 last season.

The return of Megan Ramey (Jr., Yorktown, Ind./Yorktown) and Sarah Franklin (Jr., Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove) to the rubber adds experience to the pitching staff as well as aid in the development of the team. Ramey finished last season 9-12 with a 2.52 ERA and 118 strikeouts. Franklin went through 154.2 innings in 2011 while holding a 10-13 mark and a 2.72 ERA.

The West Division was topped by Missouri-St. Louis' 115 total points. Drury's 105 came in second, with Missouri S&T following with 79 total points. The rest of the West fell as follows: Quincy (78), Rockhurst (74), Maryville (43), Illinois Springfield (42) and William Jewell (32).



Kylie Meeks make a strong connection.
Photo Courtesy of Father Timm.

Puma Athlete Profile:

By: Dan Zimmer
Sports Editor



Audra Rains is a Sophomore Softball player. She is a Criminal Justice Major.

What is your Home town?

I am from Richmond, Indiana.

What is your position?

I play first base for Puma softball.

Biggest celebrity crush and why?

Derek Jeter is my celebrity crush. He's a true American hero, and come on, he is dreamy to look at!

Favorite store to shop in?

I love to shop at Rue 21. They always have HUGE deals!

Best scent you ever smelled?

The cologne Curve that men wear smells so good.

Biggest hidden talent people don't know about?

It's weird, but I can shake my eyes back and forth really quick.

What is your best excuse to skip Core lecture?

I need to brush my dog's hair. I'm just kidding I never miss Core lecture!

Chicago Bulls Look strong at NBA Season Halfway Point

By Daniel Zimmer

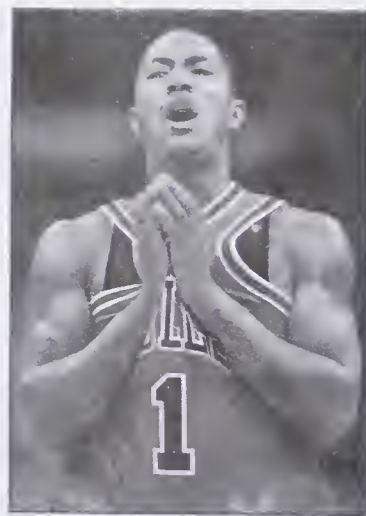
Sports Editor

The Chicago Bulls have one of the strongest records at the half way point in the NBA season.

After having a lockout to start the season, the NBA season did not look promising with superstar players moving overseas to continue playing. Also, with free agency becoming a huge market, team rosters have been shuffling and changing quickly. Last year the Miami Heat set the example and tone by signing superstar LeBron James to join Dwayne Wayne to create a monster roster to compete for a championship. This year the Los Angeles Clippers followed suit by adding both Chauncey Billups and Chris Paul to combine with rookie sensation Blake Griffin. The transactions seem to have worked out well as they top their division just ahead of town rivals Los Angeles Lakers.

The New York Knicks have also had bounds of success after cinderella story sensation Jeremy Linn, a recent graduate from Harvard University and being dropped from two other team rosters, All of which, has become a star.

As for the Chicago Bulls, they have had an exciting season thus far being one of the strongest lock-down defenses and the continued success of last year's MVP



Reigning MVP Derrick Rose.
Photo Courtesy of Google.

Derrick Rose, despite injuries. Rose is averaging 22 points a game and has shown great leadership. Despite Rose's time off, his teammates have picked up much of the slack.

Other injuries have not hindered the Bulls' performances. New addition Richard Hamilton has been out with injuries, but has still been able to lead from the bench. He is also the only one of the players on the roster who has had championship experience, having won with the Detroit Pistons.

The Bulls look to continue their success with a 5 game lead of the Indiana Pacers into the playoffs.

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for February 23
(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13)
4:50

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG)
4:30

Star Wars Episode 1: 3D
1:30, 3:50, 6:10

The Vow (PG-13)
2:10, 4:20, 6:30

This Means War (PG-13)
2:30, 4:40, 6:50

Coming Soon
The Lorax
A Thousand Words
John Carter

The Ritz Cinema

Movies for February 23
(219) 866-0086
www.ritzcinema.net

All movies begin at 7:00 M-F
Matinees Sat/Sun 2:00

War Horse
(PG-13)

Last in the Alphabet, First in Love: Dan Zimmer Dating Tips

By Daniel Zimmer
Sports Editor



Dear Dan,

I have a date coming up. To be honest it's completely blind. I've never met the person and it's set up as a double date with a friend who is seeing my date's friend. What the heck do I do and how should I handle myself? I'm sort of nervous.

Wow, quite a dilemma. However, no worries these sort of things have a funny way of sorting themselves out. These sort of dates are probably the best and should be considered the easiest. Why should there be anything to be nervous

about if you've never met them? You can be yourself and they have little idea on how to judge you and vice versa. It is almost sort of freeing to know that both parties come into the date not knowing anything about each other. There is an endless amount of ways to share conversations.

For example if you met someone in class you may always fall back on that commonality. They were already there, hence it gets boring. In this case, the exact opposite, there is no commonality....yet. You can stir up a conversation from any angle. I personally favor those odds. All in all, be yourself. Again both parties don't know each other so it eliminates the temptation to be the other's perfect such and such, even though it may not be you. If all else fails and things aren't going to work out, well you owe it to your friend to be there and support them.

Things always happen for a reason, and you'd be

surprised on where these experiences take you. Just keep an open mind. Having been giving advice felt it was time for me to try and give it a go.

I just recently went on one of these types of dates, and I had the time of my life just being myself and both of us hit it off by laughing about the ridiculous situation it was. We had so much fun and we both look back on it with smiles on our faces. We were both just ourselves and we both did not feel the pressures of having to live up to what the other expected. Keeping an open mind really is a trait I recommend. Like I mentioned earlier, you'd be amazed at where such things could take you.

Send your dating questions to Dan at
dzq7803@saintjoe.edu.

Over heard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to ehq7585@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

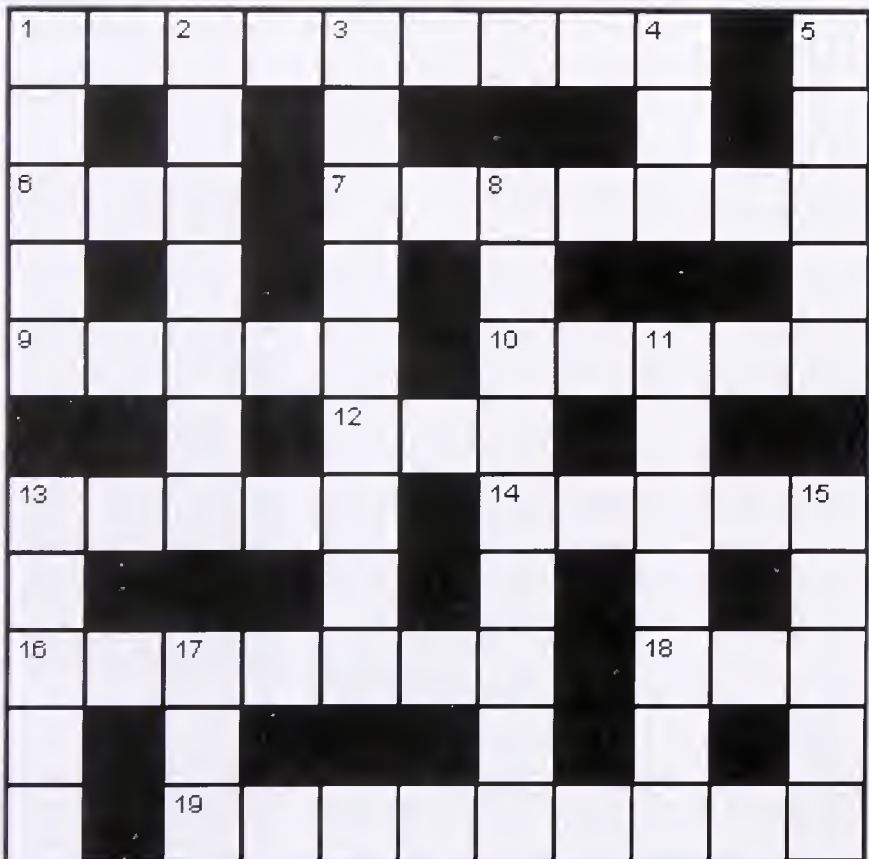
~
"Just hit her on the head with a spatula, or like a frying pan."

~
"My hand is itching for a date with your face!"

~
"When she's mad, she goes to church. It doesn't help her."

~
"I have a drinking problem. As in, when I try to take a drink, I spill water all down my front."

~
"I was falling asleep on the toilet at work and I was totally thinking about you."



Across

1. Eternal (9)
6. Water barrier (3)
7. Precious gem (7)
9. Mistake (5)
10. One of the senses (5)
12. Expert (3)
13. Beer mug (5)
14. Score (5)
16. Very old (7)
18. Self (3)
19. Stage name (9)

Down

1. Military chaplain (5)
2. Compunction (7)
3. Survival (9)
4. Fifth sign of the zodiac (3)
5. Emblem (5)
8. Tried (9)
11. Physician (7)
13. Frighten (5)
15. Tempest (5)
17. Drinking vessel (3)

Reasons to Party

February 24th, 1992-Wayne's World opens in theaters country-wide.

February 26th, 1909-The first cartoon is shown in movie theaters.

February 27th, 1932-Elizabeth Taylor's birthday.

February 29th-Leap Day

March 1st, 1944-Roger Daltrey's birthday.

March 2nd, 1962-Wilt Chamberlain scores 100 points in a basketball game.

March 4th, 1938-Toothbrush bristles are changed from badger hair to nylon.

March 8th-National Girl Scouts Week

March 9th, 1981-The Department of Agriculture declares ketchup a vegetable.

WOULD YOU RATHER...

- ...always have to take a cold shower or never get enough sleep?
- ...always lose or never play?
- ...have an elephant trunk or a giraffe neck?
- ...be really hairy or bald?
- ...be stranded on an island alone or with someone you hate?
- ...eat a stick of butter or drink a bottle of hot sauce?
- ...kiss a jellyfish or step on a crab?